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UKRAINE EXPANDS RURAL APOTHECARY NETWORK

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In the prewar period there were 5,000 apothecary points scattered throughout the Ukraine. Their service to the rural communities was noteworthy, but several improvements had to be made. Experience proved that apothecary points had to stock large amounts of uncompounded drugs. Finally, it was decided to establish two types of apothecary stores. The first type carried prepared medicinal preparations and was authorized to compound doctor's prescriptions. The second type was authorized only to sell the prepared products obtained from the rural apothecary. At present, there are 10,000 apothecary points.

The apothecary network in the Ukraine is very well organized. The final authority rests in the hands of the rayon apothecary which controls the location of new apothecary points, regulates the operation of medical assistants and medical nurse units and assures them a satisfactory supply of medicinals.

It would appear that such an efficient organization should operate smoothly, but unfortunately not everyone cooperates fully. It is interesting to note that 15 apothecary points in Borodyansk Rayon, Kiev Oblast, sold 117,000 rubles worth of medical preparations in 1948. For the same period, however, the 11 apothecary points in Skvinsk Rayon, Kiev Oblast, were able to sell an average of only 70 rubles worth of medical preparations per month. This was blamed on a lack of attention on the part of the health department and the apothecary.

The work done by medical workers of Sumsk Apothecary Administration is commendable. There are 167 doctor's consultation units in the Oblast. These are being served by 68 apothecary stores and 97 apothecary points. At the same time, there are small apothecary points in almost all of the 172 medical-obstetrical points, and 285 medical assistants points. Thirteen apothecary points have been reorganized into branch apothecary stores and have a registered pharmacist on their staff. This widespread apothecary network gave the oblast farmers some one million various items of medical preparations last year.

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The case is almost similar for Poltava Oblast. There 546 medical enterprises have their own apothecary points. Some simple medical preparations are being sold at 19 sovkhozes. The Ostrov rayon apothecary, Kaments-Podolsk Oblast, has established 18 apothecary points. It also has organized monthly seminars for the personnel of the various apothecary points.

At present, there is a program in the Ukrainian SSR to supply various rural apothecary points with all the medical preparations they may need. The Sumsk, Voroshilovgrad, Stalinsk, Kiev, and other Oblasts' Apothecary Administrations are already stocking up in preparation for the successful fulfillment of the program.

The Main Apothecary Administration for the Ukraine plans to organize several thousand new apothecary points in 1949. Their objective is to provide every rural medical enterprise with proper medical preparations. The rayon apothecaries will be assigned the task of implementing this program.

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